

I am appalled that Sinclair Broadcast Group is even thinking of instructing their 62 local stations to air any kind of political smear piece two weeks before the election. This would be direct electioneering by a corporate media giant -- and against federal election law. If Sinclair follows through with using their stations for illegal electioneering, they should have their license revoked, or at least not renewed. This kind of behavior, with complete disregard for the law and community, simply should not be tolerated. The broadcasting leaders in America have a responsibility to abide by the law and set a good example to the public they are there to serve, not blatantly disrespect the law and use their size and strength to corrupt and manipulate.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.